

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-11 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

ACDA-05 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 OPR-02 DHA-02 /087 W

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O R 190928Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8202

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 569

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS.

E.O. 1165: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. KARAME'S RESIGNATION LAST NIGHT CAME IN WAKE OF, AND WAS ATTRIBUTED SPECIFICALLY BY HIM TO CONTINUOUS BREACHES OF THE CEASEFIRES HE HAS BEEN ARRANGING OVER PAST COUPLE DWZS. BEYOND AIR STRIKE FRIDAY AFTERNOON, ABOUT WHICH KARAME PROTESTED BUT WHICH HE FINALLY SEEMED TO SWALLOW, MOST RECENT EXAMPLE WAS ALL OUT DRIVE BY PHALANGIST-CHAMOUNIST FORCES LAST NIGHT AGAINST QARANTINA DISTRICT. IN DARKNESS CAUSED BY ELECTRICITY FAILURE RESULTING FROM STORM LAST NIGHT, SKY WAS BRIGHTLY LIT OVER QARANTINA INDICATING LARGE NUMBER OF FIRES. AS OF THIS MORNING, PHALANGISTS AREMRLAITANG SUBSTANTIAL VICTORY THERE, ALTHOUGH THEY ADMIT NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN LEFTIST DEFENDERS REMAIN, SOMETIMES PUT AS HIGH AS FIFTY.

2. KARAME RESIGNATION APPEARED TO TAKE FRANGIE AND MANY OTHERS BY SURPRISE. KARAME REPORTEDLY CONSULTED WITH NUMBER OF HIS ALLIES AND YASSER ARAFAT BEFORE INFORMING

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FRANGIE. ONE OR TWO OF THESE HAS INDICATED TO EMBASSY

THAT ISSUE IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. FRANGIE RETAINS THE OPTION OF NOT ACCEPTING RESSIGNATION AND ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE KARAME TO CONTINUE, AND WE DO NOT KNOW EXTENT TO WHICH SYRIANS HAVE BEEN HEARD FROM DIRECTLY IN THIS MATTER. WHILE AS OF THIS WRITING THERE IS A TEMPORARY LULL IN CITY FIGHTING, WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT PAHLANGISTS HAVE SATISFIED THEMSLEVES ON THEIR MILITARY GAINS OR THAT FIGHTING WILL NOT RESUME AT HIGH LEVELS.

3. IN SOME WAYS KARAME RESIGNATION MORE IMPORTANT SYMBOLICALLY THAN IN REALITY. PEACE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT OVER PAST WEEK OR SO DIRECTLY BY FRANGIE WITH ASAD. MILITARY DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN OCCURRING BETWEEN ARMY AND YASSER ARAFAT'S MAIN LINE PALESTINIANS WITH INTENTION TO LIMIT FIGHTING TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. THUS, KARAME WHO WAS CHARGED WITH PUTTING TOGETHER A MODERATE MOSLEM POSITION BUT WAS UNABLE TO DO SO HAD ENDED UP OPERATING SOMEWHAT ON THE FRINGES. HIS RESIGNATION IS AN OBVIOUS INDICATION OF PIQUE, EXASPERATION, AND PERHAPS CONTAINS AN ELEMENT OF REASSERTING HIMSELF. HE IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD A NUMBER OF POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS TODAY.

4. MEANWHILE, LUCIEN DAHDAH WENT TO DAMASCUS WITH MESSAGE FROM FRANGIE.

5. AIRPORT REMAINS CLOSED TODAY. FOUR OFFICIAL AMERICANS STRANDED THERE ARE BEING WELL LOOKED AFTER.

6. PRESS REPORTS THAT RAYMOND EDDE IS IN NEW YORK TODAY AND PLANS TRIP TO WASHINGTON TO CONSULT WITH U.S. GOVT LEADERS.  
LAMBRAKIS

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## Message Attributes

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